

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 29, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and submit the following amendments and remarks to expedite prosecution of the present application to allowance. Claims 1-48 are pending. Claims 1-37, 47, and 48 are allowed. Claims 38-46 are rejected. Claims 38, 39, and 41-46 are currently amended. Applicants thank Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 38-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 asserting that the claim language is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants address claims 38-40 and 41-46 separately because these two groups of claims claim different categories of statutory subject matter.

Claims 38-40.

The Office Action rejected claims 38-40 asserting that a computer program product does not fall within one of the statutory classes of invention. Applicants amend claims 38 and 39 in the preamble to specifically claim a tangible medium.

Amended claim 38 recites: "A computer program product, *tangibly embodied in a storage medium*, for recognizing words spoken by native speakers of multiple languages, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to..." Amended claim 39 recites: "A computer program product, *tangibly embodied in a storage medium*, for multilingual speech recognition, the computer program product being operable to cause data processing apparatus to..."

Claims 38 and 39 thus claim a physical product that includes a storage medium. In other words, claims 38 and 39 claim a physical article of manufacture. Applicants respectfully submit that an article of manufacture falls within a statutory category of invention. Furthermore, claims 21-26 use similar language to claim a physical computer program product, and claims 21-26 have been indicated as allowable. Amendments to claims 38 and 39 are supported by the initial disclosure in original claim 21, and also in the specification, page 13, lines 3-5. Applicants submit that claim 40 inherits this physical limitation by virtue of dependency. Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that claims 38-40 fall within a statutory category of invention.

Claims 41-46:

Claims 41-46 have been amended to claim a computer system, and to delete the language of "means for." For example, claim 41 recites: "A computer system comprising: a processor; a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions that when executed by the processor cause the system to perform the operations of: accepting text spellings of training words in a plurality of sets of training words, each set corresponding to a different one of a plurality of languages...". Support for these amendments is found in the specification on page 12, line 18 to page 13, line 5, in Figures 4 and 5, as well as elsewhere in the figures and specification. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 41-46 claim a physical apparatus, which is a statutory category of invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Summary

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims in the subject application fall within at least one statutory category of patentable inventions. Thus, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an online payment made herewith, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

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